

Claims

1. A method of operating a network entity (MHA) at an intermediate node between a mobile node (MN) in a foreign network (FN) and a correspondent node (CN), the method comprising sending (2b; 3b; 5b; 5d) a packet, addressed to the correspondent node (CN), from the network entity (MHA).
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the packet is a binding update (2b; 3b; 5b).
3. The method of claim 2, including allocating to the mobile node (MN) a care-of address (SCoA) within the foreign network (FN), wherein the binding update (2b; 3b; 5b) indicates the care-of address (SCoA).
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the network entity (MHA) subsequently receives (2c; 3c), in a session between the correspondent node (CN) and the mobile node (MN), one or more session packets with the correspondent node address (CNAddr) as the source address and the care-of address (SCoA) as the destination address, and forwards (2d; 3d) the session packets to the mobile node (MN).
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the session packets are tunnelled (2c) from the correspondent node (CN) to the network entity (MHA) and decapsulated prior to forwarding (2d) to the mobile node (MN).
6. The method of claim 4, wherein the network entity (MHA) translates the destination address of the session packets to a home address (HAddr) of the mobile node (MN) prior to forwarding (3d) to the mobile node (MN).
7. The method of claim 2 or claim 3, wherein the network entity (MHA) subsequently sends (5d), in a session between the mobile node (MN) and the correspondent node (CN), one or more session packets in a tunnel from the network entity (MHA) to the correspondent node (CN), with the care-of address (SCoA) as the source address and the correspondent node address (CNAddr) as the destination address.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the tunnelled session packets have a home address (HAddr) of the mobile node (MN) as an inner source address.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the packet is a session packet (5d) in a session between the mobile node (MN) and the correspondent node (CN).
10. A method of operating a network entity (MHA) at an intermediate node between a mobile node (MN) in a foreign network (FN) and a correspondent node (CN), the method comprising receiving (2c; 3c) from the correspondent node (CN) a packet addressed to the network entity (MHA) and having a correspondent node address (CNAddr) as the source address.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein the packet is a session packet in a session between the correspondent node (CN) and the mobile node (MN), and the network entity (MHA) forwards (2d; 3d) the session packet to the mobile node (MN).
12. The method of claim 11, wherein the session packet is tunnelled (2c) from the correspondent node (CN) to the network entity (MHA) and the network entity (MHA) decapsulates the session packet prior to forwarding (2d) to the mobile node (MN).
13. The method of claim 11, wherein the network entity (MHA) translates the destination address of the session packet to a home address (HAddr) of the mobile node (MN) prior to forwarding (3d) to the mobile node (MN).
14. A method of operating a network entity (MHA) at a node of a packet-switched data network, wherein the network entity (MHA) acts an intermediate node between a mobile node (MN) having a care-of address (CoA) in a foreign network (FN) and a correspondent node (CN), the method comprising allocating a secondary care-of address (SCoA) corresponding uniquely to a home address (HAddr) of the mobile node (MN).
15. The method of claim 14, including sending (2b; 3b; 5b) a binding update indicating the secondary care-of address (SCoA) to the correspondent node (CN).
16. The method of claim 14, including sending (4b) a binding update indicating the secondary care-of address (SCoA) to a HA in a HN of the mobile node (MN).
17. The method of claim 14, including translating the destination address of one or more session packets, received from the correspondent node (CN) in a session between the correspondent node (CN) and the mobile node (MN), from the secondary care-of address (SCoA) to the home address (HAddr) prior to forwarding (3d) to the mobile node (MN).

18. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the network entity (MHA) is located at a gateway to the foreign network (FN).
19. A method according to claim 18, including configuring the network entity (MHA) as the default gateway of the mobile node (MN).
20. A method according to any preceding claim, including configuring the network entity (MHA) as the first hop of the mobile node (MN).
21. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the network entity (MHA) and the mobile node (MN) use MIPv6 protocols.
22. A computer program arranged to implement a method according to any preceding claim.
23. A computer program product comprising a computer program according to 22, recorded on a carrier.
24. Apparatus arranged to perform the method of any one of claims 1 to 21.